

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

TO:		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		X		
2	DDCI				
3	EXDIR		X		
4	D/ICS		X		
5	DDI		X		
6	DDA		X		
7	DDO		X		
8	DDS&T		X		
9	Chm/NIC				
10	GC				
11	IG		X		
12	Compt		X		
13	D/OCA	X			
14	D/PAO				
15	D/PERS				
16	D/Ex Staff				
17	C/EPS/DO		X		
18					
19					
20					
21					
22					
SUSPENSE		Date _____			

Remarks

Ex _____ tary

1 Apr '87

Date

3637 (10-81)

STAT

Page Denied

WILLIAM S. COHEN, MAINE, VICE CHAIRMAN
LLOYD BENTSEN, TEXAS
SAM NUN, GEORGIA
ERNEST F. HOLLINGS, SOUTH CAROLINA
BILL BRADLEY, NEW JERSEY
ALAN CRANSTON, CALIFORNIA
DENNIS DECONCINI, ARIZONA
HOWARD M. METZENBAUM, OHIO
WILLIAM V. ROTH, JR., DELAWARE
ORRIN HATCH, UTAH
FRANK MURKOWSKI, ALASKA
ARLEN SPECTER, PENNSYLVANIA
CHIC HECHT, NEVADA
JOHN WARNER, VIRGINIA

United States Senate ^{SSC/} #87-0943

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-8475

ROBERT C. BYRD, WEST VIRGINIA, EX OFFICIO
ROBERT DOLE, KANSAS, EX OFFICIO

SVEN E. HOLMES, STAFF DIRECTOR/GENERAL COUNSEL
JAMES H. DYKSTRA, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR
KATHLEEN P. MCGHEE, CHIEF CLERK

March 26, 1987

Mr. Robert M. Gates
Acting Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Gates:

As you know, the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence feels a keen sense of responsibility to provide truly effective oversight for covert action activities.

Recent events have highlighted one particular area of concern. That is the need for an independent auditing capability with respect to covert action programs.

Over the years, the Intelligence Community has been cooperative in providing information about the funding and operation of covert activities. However, the fact remains that the Committee must depend solely on the Community to supply the information by which we are to oversee these activities and thereby assure not only the full Senate, but also the American people that the requirements of the law, as well as the stated objectives of these programs, are being fulfilled. This situation, at best, leaves doubts in the minds of many as to the capacity of the Committee to fully and independently perform its oversight function.

Accordingly, the Committee desires to examine alternative methods of independent auditing of covert action programs with a goal toward putting an effective program in place. Proposed alternatives could include either using existing institutions or creating a new independent unit with specific responsibility to report to the Congressional oversight committees along the lines of special units which are tasked in selected areas by subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee. A full, comprehensive capability would not be necessary, but we do feel the need to be able to make independent spot checks of audits being made by the Community itself. We would be very interested in your views on how this might best be accomplished.

The Committee is mindful of the nature of this undertaking and the great care which will be required in implementing any such system. We must make certain that the confidentiality of sensitive information would in no way

#87-0943

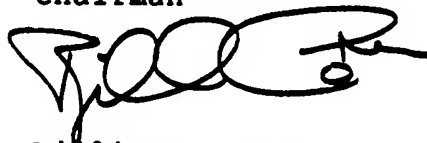
be compromised. However, we feel strongly that covert action, while an integral part of our intelligence gathering capability, requires the confidence of the American people to be successful. Therefore, the oversight of such actions must be thorough and credible.

We look forward to receiving your suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David L. Boren".

David L. Boren
Chairman

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William S. Cohen".

William S. Cohen
Vice Chairman